

Claims

This Complete Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the subject application.

1. (Currently amended) A sterilization package for enclosing a device during a sterilization procedure and storing the device in sterile form thereafter, the package comprising:
 - a barrier film defining an interior space;
 - the barrier film sealing the interior space from contaminating microorganisms;
 - at least a portion of the barrier film being formed of a semi-permeable material which is permeable to sterilizing gasses gases and impermeable to contaminating microorganisms; and
 - at least a portion of an outer surface of the package having thereon a friction enhancing material;
 - wherein the friction enhancing material is applied in a pattern while not impeding permeation of sterilizing gases.
2. (Currently amended) [[A]] The sterilization package according to claim 1 wherein the barrier film is flexible.
3. (Currently amended) [[A]] The sterilization package according to claim 2 wherein the barrier film is formed of two separate film panels sealed together by a peripheral seal.
4. (Currently amended) [[A]] The sterilization package according to claim 3 wherein both film panels have the friction enhancing material thereon.

5. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The sterilization package according to claim 3 wherein at least one of the film panels consists of the semi-permeable material a portion of which has the friction enhancing material~~ wherein a portion of the semi-permeable material has the friction enhancing material thereon.
6. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The sterilization package according to claim 1 containing a medical instrument.~~
7. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The sterilization package according to claim 1 wherein the friction enhancing material comprises an elastomer.~~
8. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The sterilization package according to claim 7 wherein the elastomer comprises silicone.~~
9. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The sterilization package according to claim 1 wherein a portion of the semi-permeable material has the friction enhancing material thereon.~~
10. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The sterilization package according to claim 1 wherein the friction enhancing material is on the semi-permeable material in a pattern which leaves a portion of the semi-permeable material uncovered by the friction enhancing material.~~
11. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The sterilization package according to claim 10 wherein the pattern is uniformly distributed over the semi-permeable material.~~
12. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The sterilization package according to claim 11 wherein the pattern is uniformly distributed over the barrier film.~~

13. (Currently amended) [[A]] The sterilization package according to claim 10 wherein the portion of the semi-permeable material uncovered by the friction enhancing material is greater than 25 percent.
14. (Currently amended) [[A]] The sterilization package according to claim 1 wherein the interior space is defined by folding the barrier film.
15. (Currently amended) [[A]] The sterilization package according to claim 14 wherein the barrier film comprises CSR wrap.
16. (Currently amended) [[A]] The sterilization package according to claim 1 wherein a portion of the barrier film is formed of an impermeable material which is impermeable to sterilizing gases and contaminating microorganisms, and the friction enhancing material is located on the impermeable material.
17. (New) A sterilization package for enclosing a device during a sterilization procedure and storing the device in sterile form thereafter, the package comprising:
a barrier film defining an interior space;
the barrier film sealing the interior space from contaminating microorganisms;
at least a portion of the barrier film being formed of a semi-permeable material which is permeable to sterilizing gases and impermeable to contaminating microorganisms;
and
at least a portion of an outer surface of the package having thereon a friction enhancing material;
wherein the friction enhancing material is applied on the semi-permeable material in a pattern while not impeding permeation of sterilizing gases.
18. (New) The sterilization package according to claim 17 wherein the pattern is uniformly distributed over the semi-permeable material.

19. (New) The sterilization package according to claim 17 wherein the pattern is distributed over the entire barrier film.

20. (New) A sterilization package for enclosing a device during a sterilization procedure and storing the device in sterile form thereafter, the package comprising:

- a barrier film defining an interior space;
- the barrier film sealing the interior space from contaminating microorganisms;
- at least a portion of the barrier film being formed of an impermeable material which is impermeable to sterilizing gases and contaminating microorganisms;
- at least a portion of the barrier film being formed of a semi-permeable material which is permeable to sterilizing gases and impermeable to contaminating microorganisms;
- and
- at least a portion of an outer surface of the package having thereon a friction enhancing material;
- wherein the friction enhancing material is applied on the impermeable material in a pattern while not impeding permeation of sterilizing gases.